

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Abstract is amended. Claims 1-9 and 35-46 remain in this application. Claim 1, 2, and 7-9 are amended. Claim 3 is canceled. Claims 10-34 have been withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement. New claims 35-46 are submitted with this response.

The Abstract is amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim 1 is amended, as discussed below, to recite an angle that relates to the height of at least one protrusion above a faceplate, as discussed below, and to provide explicit antecedent basis for the term “central longitudinal axis” and “center point” of the keypad. The recitation of the angle is supported by paragraph [0032] (disclosing that the angle is at least about 10 degrees) and FIG. 5 (showing an angle θ of at least 20 degrees).

Claim 2 is amended to provide antecedent basis for the term “housing” and to correct a minor editorial error.

Claim 7 is amended to require that there be two protrusions, and eliminates the requirement that the protrusions be parallel to each other. The amendment is supported, for example, by paragraph [0032] (two sidewalls 70, 72) and FIGS. 1-6 and 8.

Claim 8 is amended to more clearly recite that a channel is defined by two protrusions and a faceplate.

Claim 9 is amended to correct a typographical error and is amended similarly to claim 1. Claim 9 is further amended to eliminate the requirement that the protrusions be parallel to each other and to clarify that the referenced longitudinal axis is the central longitudinal axis.

New claim 35 is directed to a privacy keypad that includes exactly two protrusions. Support for claim 35 may be found at, for example, paragraph [0032] (two sidewalls 70, 72) and FIGS. 1-6 and 8.

New claim 36 depends from claim 35 and is directed to construction of the protrusions. Claim 36 generally corresponds to claim 2. Support for claim 36 may be found, for example, at paragraphs [0029] and [0032], and FIGS. 1-6 and 8.

New claim 37 depends from claim 35 and is directed to an angle that relates to the height of the protrusions to the faceplate. Support for claim 37 may be found, for example, at paragraph [0032] (disclosing that the angle is at least about 10 degrees) and FIG. 5 (showing an angle θ of at least 20 degrees).

New claim 38 depends from claim 35 and is directed to a protrusion including a light source. New claim 38 generally corresponds to claim 5. New claim 39 depends from claim 38 and is directed to a light emitting diode as a light source. New claim 39 generally corresponds to claim 6. Support for claims 38 and 39 may be found at, for example, paragraph [0036] and FIG. 8.

New claim 40 depends from claim 35 and recites that the protrusions with the faceplate define a longitudinal channel having open ends. New claim 41 is directed to a privacy keypad including more than one protrusion, where the protrusions define a channel having open ends. Support for claims 40 and 41 may be found at, for example, paragraphs [0029], [0030], and [0032] and FIGS. 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8.

New claim 42 depends from claim 1 and recites that the at least one protrusion is parallel to the central longitudinal axis of the keypad. New claims 43 and 44 depend from claims 7 and 9 respectively, and recite that the two protrusions are parallel to each

other. Support for claims 42, 43, and 44 may be found at, for example, paragraphs [0007] and [0008], and FIG. 2.

New claim 45 recites the elements of original claims 1 and 5, including the at least one protrusion including a light source.

New claim 46 depends from claim 45, and like claim 6 recites that the light source is a light omitting diode.

The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the discussion below.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

1. Claims 1-4 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,318,134 to Mossberg et al. (“Mossberg”).
2. With respect to claims 1 and 9, the Applicant respectfully submits that these claims as amended are not anticipated by Mossberg because Mossberg fails to disclose every recited element.

Independent claims 1 and 9 are amended and define a privacy keypad disposed on a faceplate and at least one protrusion laterally adjacent to the keypad. Claims 1 and 9 further recite that “a line from the center point of the keypad normal to the central longitudinal axis of the keypad to the top of the at least one protrusion forms an angle of *at least 20 degrees* with a plane tangential to the surface of the faceplate along the central longitudinal axis of the keypad.” Mossberg shows a corresponding angle of approximately 17.5 degrees, and includes no comment or disclosure about the angle (see

annotated FIG. 5 of Mossberg, attached as Exhibit A). Therefore, Mossberg does not include every element of amended claims 1 and 9.

Claims 1 and 9 are also not obvious in view of Mossberg because Mossberg does not suggest the recited angle of at least 20 degrees. Such an angle contributes significantly to the Applicant's goal of creating a privacy keypad and provides nonobvious advantages over Mossberg. Mossberg does not comment at all on the angle, and does not appreciate the benefit of any angle, let alone one that is at least 20 degrees. Mossberg fails to recognize and thus realize the advantages that the Applicant has achieved in his invention by providing such an angle. Nowhere does Mossberg state a purpose or result as having a privacy keypad, or realize that protrusions might obscure the view of the keypad. Mossberg rather indicates that the keypad may be mounted elsewhere on the surface of the outer enclosure walls (see Mossberg at col. 3, lines 36-42, and claim 5). This fact indicates that the intent of Mossberg was not for the recess to create a privacy keypad but that keypad location was merely a requirement of handle, lid, and latch functionality. Given the advantages of the Applicant's design explained above and in the specification, and the fact that Mossberg does not show or appreciate such a design, the Application respectfully submits that it is not obvious to provide a privacy keypad in the claimed manner. Accordingly, claims 1 and 9 are nonobvious over Mossberg.

Claims 2, 4, 7, and 8 depend directly or indirectly from allowable claim 1, including all of the limitations therein, and are therefore also allowable.

Claim 7 is amended to require that the at least one protrusion (claim 1) consist of exactly two protrusions. New independent claim 10 recites exactly two protrusions

adjacent to and on opposite sides of the keypad. New independent claim 16 recites a plurality of protrusions laterally adjacent to and on opposite sides of the keypad defining a channel with open ends. Mossberg has raised areas surrounding the entire keypad, and may be interpreted as having four protrusions, at top, bottom, left side, and right side (Mossberg FIGS. 1-3). Because Mossberg teaches four protrusions and no less, and its protrusions do not define a channel with open ends, Mossberg cannot anticipate claims 7, 10, or 16. Nor does Mossberg suggest either a claim element of exactly two protrusions or a defined channel having open ends, and these claims are nonobvious over Mossberg.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mossberg in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,651,450 to Priesemuth (“Priesemuth”).

4. Claim 5 depends from allowable claim 1, including all of the limitations therein, and is therefore allowable for that reason. Claim 6 depends from allowable claim 5, including all of the limitations therein, and is therefore also allowable.

5. New independent claim 45 recites the limitations of original claims 1 and 5, including that the at least one protrusion comprises a light source. The Examiner asserts that a protrusion 60 in Priesemuth comprises a light source. The part in Priesemuth identified as a protrusion by the Examiner, however, is an actuating element 60. A protrusion of the present invention, as set forth in claim 1, is an element that extends away from a faceplate; in Priesemuth, there are no protrusions, but just the entire actuating element 60. The actuating element 60 is lit from behind and within the switch. A backlit actuating element 60 is not the same as the light source required to be in the Applicant’s at least one protrusion. The protrusion of the present invention extends from

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the faceplate, which results in the light source lighting the keypad from the side or above, not from behind as in Priesemuth (see, for example, Applicant's light source 90 in paragraph [0036] and FIG. 8). Because Mossberg in view of Priesemuth does not suggest all of the claim limitations of claim 45, there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness of claim 5.

New claim 46 depends from allowable claim 45 and is therefore also allowable.

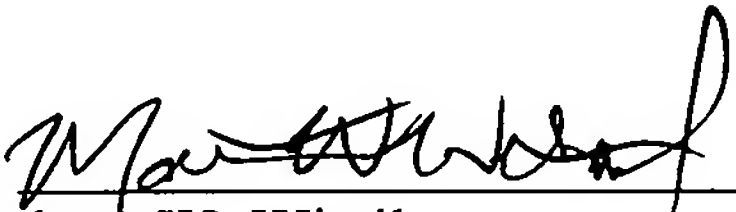
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the privacy keypad claimed in the present application is neither anticipated nor fairly taught or suggested by any of the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in any reasonable combination suggested by the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 35-46 at an early date are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions about the present Amendment or anticipates finally rejecting any claim of the present application, a telephone interview is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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